

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2004

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Public Forum Provides Citizens Information and Updates on Actions Against Controversial Well

LANSING—State Senator Raymond Basham (D-Taylor) thanked the many citizens who attended his recent town hall meeting for their commitment to the fight to stop Environmental Disposal Systems' (EDS) proposed commercial hazardous waste injection well facility from operating in Romulus and expressed his pride in being a part of their efforts. Senator Basham, together with Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor), hosted the town hall meeting on May 24 to update concerned citizens about the status of the EDS project and inform them of various organized anti-well efforts.

Senator Basham and Representative Hopgood were joined by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven Chester, Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert, Taylor Mayor Greg Pitoniak, as well as Kurt Heise with the Wayne County Department of Environment, Alan Francois for Congressman John Dingell and Barbara McCallahan for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. Numerous other community officials were also in attendance, along with members of Romulus Environmentalists Care About People (RECAP) and the Downriver Association of Realtors (DRAR).

“The recent EPA decision granting EDS its land ban exemption, led many citizens to believe the fight was over,” said Basham. “I wanted to assure them that our fight continues – it continues on many fronts – and will until this project is stopped.”

One new development that was discussed at the town hall meeting was the expiration of EDS’s two Class I commercial hazardous injection well permits. EDS has applied to the EPA for renewal of these permits. Senator Basham believes this offers an important opportunity for the EPA to re-evaluate their original decision.

“I would expect the EPA to seriously reconsider the basis by which these hazardous wells were permitted,” said Sen. Basham. “The public can be assured that I will use this opportunity to again voice my concerns about this environmental nightmare threatening our communities as well as raise specific issues about the construction, operation and monitoring of these wells.”

As required by law, the EPA has scheduled a public hearing on the permit renewals for Tuesday, June 29 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 8000 Merriman Road in Romulus. Public comment will be accepted from May 26 through July 12, 2004 and should be sent to EPA Region 5 (WU-16J), UIC Branch (Attn: Dana Rzeznik), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590 or e-mailed to rzeznik@epa.gov

“Every day EDS doesn’t operate is a victory for all of us in this fight,” said Sen. Basham. “We are more motivated now than ever before and we will not stop fighting until we have defeated EDS.”

(Individuals who were unable to attend the town hall meeting may contact Sen. Basham at 517-373-7800 or at senrbasham@senate.mi.gov to receive and update and/or request an information packet.)

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